DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to Applicant's reply filed on March 18, 2008. Claims 1-7 and 11-19 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. The objection to claims 22 and 23 set forth in the last Office action has been withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment.

3. The rejections of claims 1-7 and 9-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) set forth in the last Office action have been withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims have been withdrawn as noted above.

Examiner's Amendment

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for the examiner's amendment to the claims was given in a telephone interview with Jeffrey Nesiba and Keith Drabek (Reg. No. 60,757) on June 18, 2008.

6. The format of the abstract is amended, as presented on the next sheet, to comply with MPEP § 608.01(b). Claim 1 is amended, as presented on the sheet following the abstract, to remedy inconsistent terminology in the claim.

ABSTRACT

A system and method employing pre- and/or post- condition(s) specified at a source code level and persisted (e.g., in associated object code and/or a specification repository) facilitating static checking of the object code is provided. The system and method are based, at least in part, upon a framework that employs rules for using an interface to be recorded as declarative specifications in an existing language. The system can employ a range of annotations that allow a developer to specify interface rule(s) with varying precision. At the simplest end of the range, a specifier can mark those methods that allocate and release resource(s). A specifier can also limit the order in which an object's methods may be called to the transitions of a finite state machine. At the more complex end of the range, a specifier can give a method a plug-in pre- and post condition, which is arbitrary code that examines an object's current state and a static approximation of the method's actuals, decides whether the call is legal and returns the object's state after the call.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)

at line 4, please insert --file-- after "executable object" and before the semicolon.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-7 and 11-19 are allowed.

8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not teach or reasonably suggest, in the combinations and in such a manner as recited in independent claims 1, 15 and 17, employing a removable specification embedded in an object file or in executable code to facilitate static checking of the object file or executable code, wherein the specification is specified at a source code level and is embedded within the source code of the object file or executable code, as reflected in Applicant's remarks (see Applicant's remarks, pages 6-11).

9. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Yigdall whose telephone number is 571-272-3707. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tuan Q. Dam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192

Michael J. Yigdall
Examiner
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